

# WITH ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

# AMAA

## news

Publication of the Armenian Missionary Association of America  
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# I Believe

Andrew Torigian



“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two

men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, ‘Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.’ Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.” (Luke 24: 1-9).

This is the faith we need to continue our mission: that is to spread the good news, to feed the hungry, to heal the sick, to give a helping hand to the needy, to take care of our orphans and widows, and to always affirm our steadfastness, as is written in Matthew 28:19 **“Go forth and make disciples of all nations.”** All this is possible because He is alive and has provided us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we celebrate His resurrection, we, at the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), praise God that with the continuing extraordinary support we are receiving from our members, believers and friends even in this terrible economic climate, our work continues successfully.

In addition the AMAA's *Together, we can build miracles* campaign is right on schedule with our set goals, thanks again to the tremendous outpouring of support from our constituents. We will continue to reach out to all our friends and supporters for the balance of this year as we strive to reach our target. With the constant encouragement we are receiving, it is very possible that we may surpass our goal.

God bless you all as we remember the words in 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. **“The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”** □

## AMAA Christmas Programs in Armenia

## AMAA News

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Avedisian School Kindergarten Class

Easter 2009

Dear Friends:

On the cross Jesus said "It is finished." While His followers thought it was over, they were unaware that this was actually a new beginning. With His death on the cross, Jesus closed the old chapter of sinfulness, fear and uncertainty; and with His Resurrection from death he opened a new chapter of a glorious new beginning. He accomplished much for us through the Cross. Colossians 2:13-15 says: "When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." He gave us a wonderful gift of life and hope!

Today, as we experience so much uncertainty, we forget the wonderful gift God gave through His son – this gift of hope, love, and certainty. In the face of economic turmoil and financial hardships, it is easy to be overcome by fear and anxiety. Let us take comfort that God Himself took on all ordeals and triumphed. Let us recognize the full glory of the Resurrection as a source of new light, hope, and victory.

To experience this message of glory we should not simply sit idle with our hands crossed, waiting for things to turn around for good. We should be active participants. In the midst of difficulty, we must continue spreading the joy of hope and love regardless of external economic conditions that might tempt us to believe otherwise. Too often we forget the power of God's promises and Christ's glorious Resurrection. We forget that God's love is so strong and overcomes all circumstances.

With this in mind, you can express your love too as you show your concern and care for the humanitarian needs of individuals and entire communities the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) serves. Philanthropy is a demonstration of love for our fellow human beings similarly to the way God came to us, for us. Please consider those who suffer most, including small children and the elderly. Those who had lost their jobs and who face hunger. Share what you have with others, even if it is insignificant, and you will realize what God has given us through His Son. Then and only then will it not be finished for us but provide a new beginning. God will bless us in our sacrifice for His children.

Have a blessed Easter!

Քրիստոս յարեալ ի մեռելոց. Օրհնեալ է Յարութիւնը Քրիստոսի:  
"Krisdos haryav ee merelotz. Orhnyal e haroutuneh Krisdosi"  
(Christ is resurrected from the grave. May his resurrection be blessed).



Andrew Torigian  
Executive Director

In Christ's service,



Dikran Youmshakian  
Field Director



# Building Miracles

## Executive Director Andy Torigian Continues Visitations to Friends and Supporters of the AMAA for the AMAA "Together, We Can Build Miracles" Capital Campaign

**T**he Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc., [AMAA], which serves as the missionary arm of the Armenian Evangelical churches worldwide, has been celebrating its 90th anniversary over the past year.

Founded in 1918, the AMAA was created to serve the physical and spiritual needs of people everywhere, both in the United States and abroad. To fulfill this worldwide mission, the AMAA maintains a range of educational, evangelistic, relief, social service, health care, church and child care ministries in 22 countries around the world.

On October 18, 2008, during the 90th Anniversary Banquet, Executive Director Andrew Torigian announced the public launch of the *Together, we can build miracles* multi-year capital campaign. Since fundraising commenced for this endeavor in August of 2007 over \$9 million, approximately two-thirds of the total goal, has already been committed by leading supporters of the AMAA.

Embarking on this campaign represents the legacy of the AMAA's achievements. It is an opportune time for the Association to expand its programs in order to satisfy the growing needs of the people it serves and continue providing accessible community services.

*Together, we can build miracles* campaign priorities include: opening the doors to a new Cultural Center and Church in Yerevan; developing newly purchased property in Gyumri to serve as a community center and church; expanding the Khoren and Shoushanik Avedisian Elementary School in Yerevan into a middle and high school; commencing renovations to summer camps; restoring a five-story building at Haigazian University in Lebanon; and helping the Charlotte and Elise Merdinian School in California achieve their goal of expanding into a high school.

For more information please visit the AMAA's website: [www.amaa.org](http://www.amaa.org) or call 201.265.2607. □

*Executive Director Andy Torigian meeting with Hagop Loussararian, Executive Director of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center of California at the Phoenician Restaurant in Glendale, CA. Hagop was the original principal of the Khoren and Shoushanig Avedisian Primary School in Armenia and was assisted by his wife Arsha.*



*Executive Director Andy Torigian with Stephen Lazarian, President Emeritus of Armenian Gospel Mission at his office in Pasadena, CA. They explored ways in which they can help our indigents in Armenia.*



*Dennis Gertmenian, Chief Executive Officer of Foxdale Properties, whose family supports the Gertmenian School in Lebanon through the AMAA, with Executive Director Andy Torigian at his place of business in Pasadena, CA. Together they discussed future school projects in Armenia.*



*Elsie Kashishian Haig and Andy Torigian at her home in Los Angeles, CA. Elsie and her children are adding to their endowment fund at the AMAA.*



*Karl Samuelian, Esq. with Andy Torigian and AMAA Board Member Dr. Nazareth Darakjian at Max's Restaurant in Sherman Oaks, CA. Karl and Nazareth have endowment funds with the AMAA.*



# School Expansion

## AMAA Executive Director Makes Trip to Armenia to Purchase Property for an Armenian Evangelical Middle & High School

**O**n a recent trip to Armenia, Armenian Missionary Association of America's (AMAA) Executive Director, Andrew Torigian, officially purchased two hectares (five acres) of land in the Malatia-Sebastia district of Yerevan for the AMAA. This section of Yerevan is often-times referred to as Bangladesh due to the high level of poverty among the 140,000+ residents living there.

This land purchase is the site of a proposed Middle and High School complex, which resulted from a generous commitment made through the *Together, we can build miracles* capital campaign, launched in October 2008. The success of this fundraising endeavor will strengthen the position of the AMAA to continue providing an accessible and affordable education to the future generations of Armenian youth.

This newly proposed complex will serve as an expansion of the current Khoren & Shoushanik Avedisian Primary School, which includes only grades K-5 and had received the distinguished honor of being the best school in Armenia. The new school will provide the same nurturing environment by offering a quality education, cultural-spiritual-moral training, instilling a sense of patriotism and cultivating morality by awakening the desire and love of learning in students. □



*Seated are an Armenian government representative and Andy Torigian, AMAA Executive Director upon conclusion of the sale of property for an Armenian Evangelical High School. Standing is a translator and Rev. Rene Leonian, AMAA Armenia representative.*



*At the AMAA Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia in Yerevan. From left to right: Rev. Rene Leonian, AMAA Representative in Armenia; Rev. John Khanjian, Ph. D., Provost of the Evangelical Theological Academy of Armenia; Andy Torigian, AMAA Executive Director; and Gagik Galstyan, President of Horizon 95 Construction Company.*



*Aida, Financial Officer of Horizon 95, with Andy Torigian in Yerevan after reviewing progress of construction of the new AMAA facility.*



# Christmas Joy Delivered to Children in Armenia and Karabagh

Every year, the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA), organize Christmas programs throughout Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia. During December 2008 and January 2009, under the direction of Rev. Albert Paytyan, the Christian Education Director, 55 Christmas programs were organized in 41 locations with 20,000 people participated.

The Christian Education ministries for children, youth and young adults in Armenia, Karabagh and Georgia are an integral part of AMAA ministries. Children participating in these programs and those sponsored through the AMAA, experience a special joy during the Holy Season.

Each center organizes its own Christmas program where 50 to 800 children and youth participate. The program sites are nicely decorated with colored balloons, lights, and Christmas trees. The scenery is inspiring and exciting, as seen on the enthusiastic faces of the participants.



The Christmas programs include performances in which actors present Christ's birth and convey the meaning and importance of this birth. It reveals the plan of God's salvation and God's message about Jesus. Christ's birth is proclaimed by songs, games and other forms of art. The programs are designed to bring Christmas cheer and educate the participating children. The theatrical presentations are stories through children who are changed as they are touched by God on Christmas evening.

Children take part in most of the Christmas programs by singing, dancing and reciting Bible verses or answering to the riddles of Santa Claus. At the end, the participants return home with a great satisfaction of joy and Christmas gifts prepared by AMAA. Over 10,000 children received Christmas gift packages this year.

Thanks to AMAA members and friends, children living in harsh conditions are able to have a joyous Christmas celebration which would otherwise be impossible.

The AMAA/ECA and the children and their families express their deepest appreciation for the support and the love shared by AMAA members and friends. □





# Two Acts of Love

## Needy Children in Lebanon Receive a Unique Christmas Cheer

**A**zad, 3 and Kevork, 4 of Lebanon had a unique joy this Christmas. The Sunday School children of the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, Canada, once again shared their Christmas joy with their brothers and sisters in Lebanon. Both Azad and Kevork are students at the Armenian Evangelical Shamlian Tatiguan School in Bourj Hamoud. Their father is a janitor and works hard to provide for his family's needs. Their mother takes care of the house and prepares for their arrival after school to have lunch and do their lessons.

Three other children, Maral, 2 1/2 years, Apo, 8 years and Graziella, 9 years experienced a similar joy when Santa brought gifts and food to their home. They had a difficult year since their mother had to undergo sessions of chemotherapy to fight cancer, and their father had to struggle to provide for the increasing needs of his family. Because of their mother's condition and their financial situation, they were not planning to have any celebration this year. However, the gifts from the Sunday School gave the family the Christmas hope they were lacking and made them very happy.

These are two of many families experiencing hardships. The children from Canada were able to touch their lives by a Christian act of love. Over the year they donated money from their small allowances and were able to share the joy of Christmas with others. We can all do the same. A tiny sacrifice on our behalf will make a big difference when it is accompanied by love. □



## 220 Children in Armenia Receive Special Gift Packages

**N**o one could imagine the joy the children in Azadamoud, Bert and Spitak had upon receiving special gifts during Christmas this year (January 6). Two hundred twenty children received beautiful packages of hats, gloves, scarves, socks and slippers. These gifts were made possible through the generosity of Mr. John Thomas and his family of Westwood, NJ. Mr. Thomas is a faithful supporter of the AMAA. He regularly supports the AMAA, sponsors children and on various occasions shows additional affection towards other children who have not yet been sponsored. There are an estimated 60,000 children who still need help. □



During fiscal 2007-08, the following ministries were supported by the AMAA.

## ARMENIA

- Relief to needy families
- Sponsorship of 2800 needy children & their families
- Sponsorship of grannies
- Health Care Center in Yerevan
- Dental Clinic in Vanatzor
- Theological Academy of Armenia
- Avedissian School in Yerevan
- Operation of 2 Kindergartens
- Scholarship to College & University students
- Operate Hankavan Summer Camp
- Christian Education Programs in 67 locations - Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible Schools, Youth Groups
- Milk formula for 600 infants with special needs
- Christmas Programs and distribution of gifts
- Publication & distribution of Bibles, Hymnals and Christian materials
- Support to orphanages, nurseries, children's hospitals
- Support for the Union of the Evangelical Churches and its 65-member churches and fellowships

## ARGENTINA

- Relief to needy families and elderly people
- Distribution of Bibles & Christian literature

## AUSTRALIA

- Financial support to the Armenian Evang'l Church
- Distribution of Christian literature

## BELGIUM

- Support to the Armenian Evang'l Churches
- Subsidize the salaries of ministers and Christian workers
- Distribution of Christian literature

## BRAZIL

- Support to the Armenian Evang'l Church
- Scholarship to needy college students
- Relief to needy families
- Distribution of Christian literature

## BULGARIA

- Support to the Armenian Evang'l Churches
- Summer Children and Youth Camps
- Relief to needy families
- Distribution of Christian literature

## CANADA

- Support to the Armenian Evang'l Church of Cambridge
- Scholarship to needy college students
- Distribution of Christian literature

## CYPRUS

- Support the Armenian Evangelical Fellowship
- Distribution of Christian literature

## EGYPT

- Support the ministry of the Armenian Evang'l Church of Alexandria
- Providing Christian literature

## FRANCE

- Support two Christian camps
- Financial Assistance to Panpere & La Lumignon publications
- Support the general ministries of the Armenian Evangelical Union of France
- Distribution of Christian literature
- Relief to needy retired teachers and pastors
- Support for the Armenian Evang'l Fellowship of Europe
- Church and camp building renovations

## GEORGIA

- Support the ministry of local Armenian Evang'l Churches
- Funding of Summer Youth Camp
- Relief to needy families
- Distribution of Christian literature
- Operate a Soup Kitchen

## GERMANY

- Support to missionary outreach

## GREECE

- Support to the Armenian Evang'l KG of Kokkinia
- Support to the ministries of the local churches
- Distribution of Christian literature

## IRAN

- Support to the ministry of the three local churches
- Distribution of Christian literature

## IRAQ

- Support to the ministry of the local church



# Our Communities Around the World

## KARABAGH

- Relief to 200 orphans and needy children
- Operate Shushi Summer Camp
- Christian Education Programs for children and youth - Sunday Schools, Vacation Bible schools, youth groups
- Distribution of milk formula to infants with special needs
- Operation of six kindergartens
- Distribution of Christian literature

## LEBANON

- Support Haigazian University
- Support to four high schools, one middle school and two elementary schools
- Support to the Centers for the Armenian Handicapped
- Financial aid to Daily Vacation Bible Schools
- Support Christian Endeavor youth camps
- Funding the programs of the Armenian Evang'l Social Service Center
- Special grants to subsidize the salaries of local pastors
- Support youth ministries
- Relief to needy families

## RUSSIA

- Support to the ministries of the Armenian Evang'l Churches of Moscow and Sochi
- Distribution of Christian literature

## SYRIA

- Support to six elementary schools
- Financial assistance to KCHAG Summer Camp in Kessab
- Financial aid to Daily Vacation Bible Schools
- Financial aid to financially weak churches
- Relief provision to needy retired teachers
- Financial aid to the Association for the Armenian Blind
- Financial aid to the Armenian Old Age Home of Aleppo
- Special grants to subsidize the salaries of local pastors
- Support for the medical and dental clinics of Christ's Church in Aleppo
- Support for Arevik Youth Center
- Support through social and relief services
- Relief to needy families

## TURKEY

- Support local Armenian Evangelical Churches
- Distribution of Christian literature

## UNITED STATES

- Financial aid to six Armenian Evangelical churches & fellowships
- Financial aid to Armenian Evangelical Merdinian & Sahag-Mesrob Schools
- Financial aid to theological students and interns
- Financial aid to Ararat Home
- Financial aid to Camp Arev and Camp Arevelk
- Financial aid to the AEUNA's Youth Ministry
- Financial aid to AEUNA's publication
- Scholarship to needy college and university students
- Organizing literary contests
- Distribution of Christian literature

## URUGUAY

- Financial assistance to the local church
- Relief provisions to needy families
- Distribution of Bible & Christian literature

## OTHER COUNTRIES

- Support an orphanage in Mozambique
- Support the Ferraz de Vasconcellos mission center of the Armenian Evang'l Church of Sao Paulo
- Emergency relief aid for victims of natural disasters
- Support new ministries in other countries

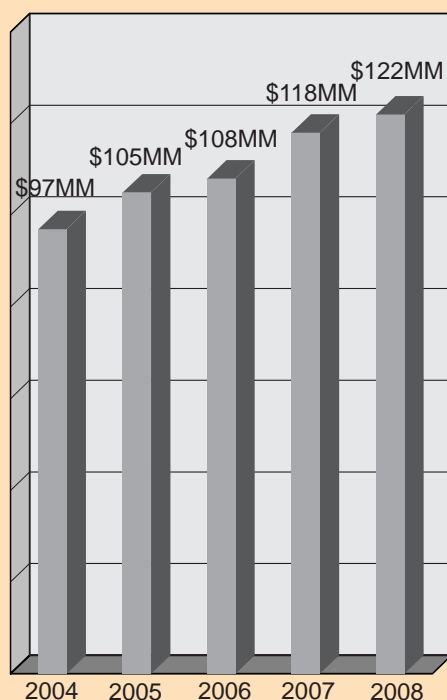


*Youth Ministry in Armavir, Armenia*



**The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) emphasizes full financial disclosure, accountability and careful stewardship.**

## NET ASSETS OF THE AMAA



**God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them. (Hebrews 6:10)**

### **Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. Consolidated Statements of Financial Position As of July 31, 2008 and 2007**

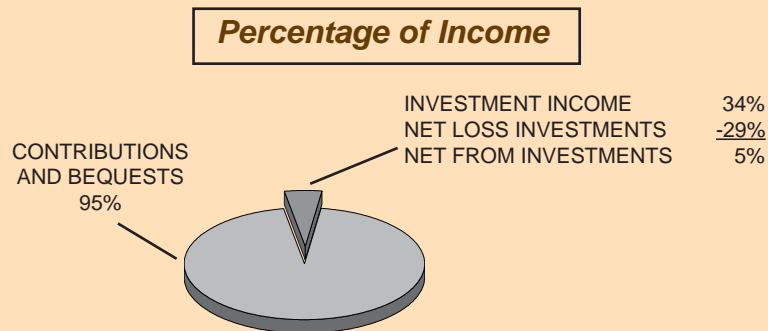
ASSETS	2008	2007
Cash	\$ 1,706,680	\$ 536,381
Interest receivable and prepaid expenses	7,655	121,167
Pledges receivable	3,484,407	150,000
Other receivable	430,912	0
Total Cash and Receivables	5,629,654	807,548
Investments:		
Cash equivalents	17,263,761	6,612,443
Corporate stocks	70,690,078	80,937,613
Bonds and notes	2,893,534	11,549,353
Real estate	16,846,869	12,253,605
Total Investments	107,694,242	111,353,014
Loans receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$50,000 in 2008 and \$50,000 in 2007	3,766,288	1,896,202
Land, buildings, and equipment at cost, less accumulated depreciation of \$1,875,926 in 2008 and \$1,891,576 in 2007	7,137,522	5,555,110
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 124,227,706</b>	<b>\$ 119,611,874</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 146,228	\$ 100,871
Custodial accounts	1,798,117	1,862,112
Total Liabilities	1,944,345	1,962,983
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	8,106,626	3,698,993
Temporarily restricted	10,823,567	6,230,328
Permanently restricted	103,353,168	107,719,570
Total Net Assets	122,283,361	117,648,891
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 124,227,706</b>	<b>\$ 119,611,874</b>



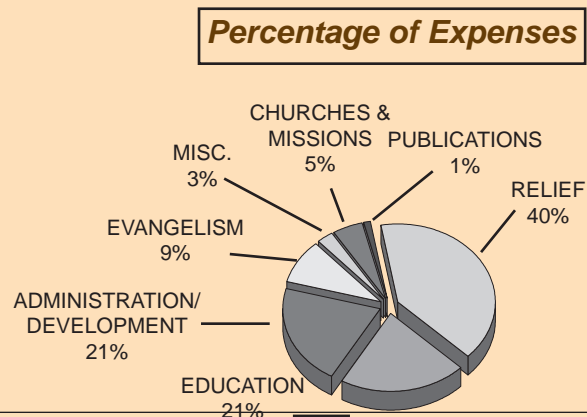
**Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc.**  
**Consolidated Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets**  
**For the Year Ended July 31, 2008**

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Revenues, Gains &amp; Other Support</b>				
Contributions and bequests	\$ 5,393,286	\$ 4,886,217	\$ 694,979	\$ 10,974,482
Net realized gains (losses) on investments	351,189	109,116	2,244,465	2,704,770
Net unrealized gains (losses) on investments	(2,765)	1,937	(6,113,371)	(6,114,199)
Investment income	290,135	1,369,982	2,284,964	3,945,081
Transfer investment income	3,634,458	(1,152,834)	(2,481,624)	0
Net assets released from restrictions -				
Satisfaction of program objectives	557,349	(621,179)	63,830	0
Satisfaction of time restrictions	966,040	0	(966,040)	0
<b>Total Revenues, Gains &amp; Other Support</b>	<b>11,189,692</b>	<b>4,593,239</b>	<b>(4,272,797)</b>	<b>11,510,134</b>
<b>Program Services</b>				
Education				
Child education	643,371			643,371
General scholarship	192,164			192,164
Leadership and theological training	170,281			170,281
Haigazian University of Beirut	446,757			446,757
Relief	2,729,077			2,729,077
Evangelism	607,704			607,704
Churches and missions	311,366			311,366
Publications	85,649			85,649
Living trusts	5,000			5,000
<b>Supporting Services</b>				
Travel and hospitality	94,195			94,195
Legal expense	38,057			38,057
Development project	350,340			350,340
Office administration	996,217			996,217
Depreciation	96,322		93,605	189,927
Pension distribution	15,559			15,559
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,782,059</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,605</b>	<b>6,875,664</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>4,407,633</b>	<b>4,593,239</b>	<b>(4,366,402)</b>	<b>4,634,470</b>
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	3,698,993	6,230,328	107,719,570	117,648,891
<b>Net Assets at Year-End</b>	<b>\$ 8,106,626</b>	<b>\$ 10,823,567</b>	<b>\$ 103,353,168</b>	<b>\$ 122,283,361</b>

HOW INCOME WAS RECEIVED...



... HOW IT WAS SPENT





# Avedisian School



**E**ducation has long been an important aspect of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). In Armenia, the Khoren & Shoushanik Avedisian School is a jewel of our education program.

It all started with the AMAA taking over and reopening a closed Kindergarten with the encouragement of the Ministry of Education. This took place on May 24, 1999 with 75 students registering in three classes. The Avedisian family have generously donated funds for this school in memory of their parents, Khoren & Shooshanik Avedisian, after whom the School was named.

Each year, another grade was added. The school has now grown to approximately 300 students in grades KG through 7. The school is generally open from 8 am to 5 pm weekdays with classes from 9 am to 3 pm. Besides the standard subjects approved by the Ministry of Education, the curriculum is enriched with Bible study, Armenian and foreign language lessons, and arts and crafts. The children in Kindergarten and First grade are also provided with meals. The children often have so much fun that they make their parents wait until they are finished playing until the day's end.

There are also many extra-curricular activities and special events, which are well-varied and keep the children interested. This includes Choral, Drama, Dance, Chess, and Karate groups as well as field trips to culturally and spiritually significant venues and special holiday programs. The Dance, Chess, and Karate groups compete in interschool competitions.

The school is blessed with well-qualified, dedicated teachers. Many times, teachers visit sick children in their homes to provide instruction.

The parents are also very involved with the school. They volunteer much time in clean-up, repairs, etc., and help with fundraising including acquiring Christmas gifts for needy children in Goris and Armavir (clothing, etc.). As a group, the parents also contribute about \$2,000 every year for AMAA Month. The parents have also hosted Armenian children visiting from other countries. In addition, the parents receive training on hygiene and disease.

Because of the school's good reputation of tuition-free quality education, there is a very long waiting list of applicants desiring to be registered at the school. In 2004, the Principal of the school received the "Best Principal" award by the Ministry of Education. Grades 4 through 7 twice

received first prize in the Russian Literature interschool competitions.

The many toys and comfortable furniture allow the children to forget about their family difficulties for a while, and encourage them to have rich imaginations. They are provided with an unmatched quality of education, as well as material and spiritual provisions. As you can see, the school benefits the children, their families, and the faculty and staff. The school is much more than just a school. It has revitalized a community, providing an inspired hope where before there was none. This school provides a shining example of what is possible with the Lord's guidance.

AMAA is launching a new Child Education Sponsorship program to help with the expenses of the school and continue providing a tuition-free education. Similar to the Child Education sponsorship Program in the Middle East and the AMAA Armenia Sponsorship Program, donors now have the opportunity to sponsor students at Avedisian School, thus helping AMAA to continue provide this unique educational service. We are sure most of our donors will take this challenge and help. To do so, please fill out the coupon on the next page or contact our office for more information.

# Haigazian University

## Celebrates the Laying of the Foundation of its Heritage Building

**O**n January 27, 2009, during a festive ceremony, Haigazian University laid the foundation of its newly acquired Heritage Building in the presence of the President of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, Rev. Meguerdich Karageozian; University President, Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian; Member of Parliament, Hagop Pakradouni; Board members, staff; faculty and project consultants and engineers.

In his welcome address, President Haidostian spoke about Haigazian University's role in preserving culture by preserving the outer façade of the building and modernizing the interior. He thanked all the supporters of this project -- donors, Board members, and all those who are making this possible.

A number of staff, faculty, alumni and Board members filled a box with items of relevant symbolism. Items included an Armenian Bible, the Haigazian University constitution and bylaws, cedar wood from Lebanon, soil from Armenia, the annual report of the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the Haigazian Armenological Review, the university yearbook, the Alumni newsletter, the university catalogue, a 1000 lira Lebanese bill, and a USB jump drive containing the daily newspapers.

Rev. Karageozian, Vice Chair of the Board, Rev. Robert Sarkissian, and MP Pakradouni, joined President Haidostian in placing the box and laying the foundation over its cover. Rev. Karageozian read Ephesians 2:19-22, followed by a prayer of dedication.

With its six floors and around 1260 square meters, the Heritage Building will serve academic and administrative purposes. As President Haidostian stated, "it will be an additional link between Mexique and May Ziadeh streets, hoping to symbolize more and more open channels, transparency, and gentle communication among people."

Laying the foundation of the Heritage Building was a cornerstone in Haigazian's history of expansion. The project began a few years ago, and this year is almost complete. The major part of fundraising has been conducted by the AMAA and Board members in the USA. Yet, the challenge lies in accomplishing the remaining portion of the campaign this year in Lebanon. □



*The current building of Khoren & Shoushanik Avedisian School located in Malatia/Sebastia district of Yerevan, Armenia.*

**Yes,** I would like to sponsor a child to attend Avedisian School.

I prefer ☐ a boy      I prefer ☐ a girl

Note: Cost of sponsorship of one child is US\$250 annually or US\$21 per month.

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The AMAA Board of Directors and staff also wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends whose names were submitted to us for publication in the AMAA NEWS.

* <b>Marie Astourian</b> Hillsdale, NJ	* <b>Arpineh Mahshigian-Aghapegian</b> Beirut, Lebanon
* <b>Myron H. Boyajian</b> Enfield, CT	* <b>Dikran Dingilian</b> Bronx, NY
* <b>Yervant Darakdjian</b> Hackensack, NJ	* <b>Florence Jundanian</b> Palos Hts, IL

\* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

## Հայ Կղերականներուն Պատասխանը Պարսից Միհրներսէիին

Վարդանանց Տօնիկ Առթիւ

### Տիգրան Եւմշաքեան

Վարդանանց պատերազմը Հայոց Պատմութեան մէջ յատուկ տեղ կը գրաւէ: Պատմութեան մէջ առաջին անգամ Հայեր ազգովին դիմագրաւեցին իրենց ազգն ու կրօնը ուռնալու փորձութիւնը 450-ական թուականներուն: Պարսից հզօր արքան՝ Յակերտ Բ., որ մօտ 12 տարիներէ կը թագաւորէր Պարսկաստանի վրայ, Քուշաններու դէմ մեծ յաղթանակ տանելէ ետք 449-ին կ'որոշէ իր պետութիւնը ամրապնդել դէպի Հիւսիս-Արեւմուտք: Այդ նպատակով, ան խիստ հրովարտակով մը կը հրամայէ, որ Հայ ժողովուրդը ուռնայ իր հաւատքը եւ ընդունի Պարսից Զրադաշտական կրօնը: Յակերտի յետին նպատակն էր Բիւզանդական կայսրութեան մեծ հարուած մը տալ:

Այս խիստ հրովարտակին հետ միատեղ, մինչ այդ Հայաստանի վրայ նշանակուած կրօնամուկ հազարապետը՝ Միհրներսէի, երկար նամակ մը կ'ուղղէր Հայ կղերաց դասին, համոզելով, որ Քրիստոսի կրօնը խաբուսիկ կրօն է, եւ թէ Հայեր ընդունելու էին Մագդեականութիւնը:

Բարեբախտաբար, Հայ ժողովուրդը չսարսափեցաւ ո՛չ Յակերտի խիստ նամակէն, ո՛չ ալ Միհրներսէի անհիմն գաղափարախօսութիւններէն, եւ կարչած մնաց իր Քրիստոնէական կրօնին, ու մահուան գնով ամէն բանէ վեր պահեց զայն: 451 թուականին, Վարդան Մամիկոնեանի եւ Ղեւոնդ Ներսիսի առաջնորդութեամբ, Հայեր մղեցին խիստ պատերազմ մը Աւարայրի դաշտին մէջ եւ պաշտպանեցին իրենց հաւատքը եւ ազգութիւնը:

Վարդանանց Պատերազմը ազգային պայքար մըն էր անսակարկ, եւ նաեւ պայքար մը՝ Քրիստոնէական հաւատքի եւ սկսգրունմներու:

Ըստ Եղիշէ պատմագիրին, Միհրներսէիի նամակին պատասխանելու համար, Հայ կղերականներ ժողով մը գումարեցին Արտաշատի մէջ եւ միահամուռ որոշեցին հաստատ մնալ իրենց հաւատքին մէջ: Իրենց պատասխան նամակը հիմնուած էր Պօղոս Առաքեալի Հռովմէացիներու գրած նամակին 8-րդ գլխուն վրայ, այսպէս.՝

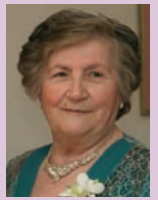
«Այս (Քրիստոնէական) հաւատքէն մեզ ոչ ոք չի կրնար խախտել, ո՛չ հրեշտակներ, ո՛չ ալ մարդիկ, ո՛չ սուրբ, ո՛չ հուրբ, ո՛չ ջուրբ, ու ո՛չ ալ որեւէ ուրիշ դառն հարուած...: Մենք որեւէ բանով գերազանց չենք մեր նախնիներէն, որոնք այս հաւատքին համար տուին իրենց գոյքը, ստացուածքն ու մարմինները: Որովհետեւ, եթէ մինչեւ անգամ անմահ ըլլայինք, եւ պետք է լինէր որ մեռնէինք Քրիստոսի սիրոյն համար, կ'արժէ մեռնիլ, վասնզի ան ալ անմահ էր, սակայն այնչափ սիրեց մեզ, որ մինչեւ իսկ մահ յանձն առաւ, որպէսզի մենք ալ իր մահով փրկուինք յաւիտեական մահէն...»:

Այս նամակը, զոր ստորագրեցին 18 եպիսկոպոսներ, գեղեցիկ վկայութիւն մըն էր Քրիստոնէական այն հաւատքին, որ Հայ ժողովուրդը պահեց դարեր շարունակ, ի գին ամէն զոհողութեանց:

Այսօր, երբ կ'անդրադառնանք Հայոց Պատմութեան յատկանշական մէկ այս դրուագին, կ'արժէ ոգեւորուիլ եւ ներշնչուի աղբիւր նկատել Սուրբ Գրային այս նամակը: Վարդան Մամիկոնեան եւ իր ընկերները փառքեան մարմնացումը եղան իսկ Հայ Եկեղեցին հաստատ Քրիստոնէութեան սկզբունքներուն: □

## Beatrice Sghomonian Kushkarian

Beatrice was born on Sept. 23, 1935. She is the first-born child of Avedis and Arousiak Sghomonian. She married George Kushkarian on Oct. 16, 1955. The Lord blessed their family with two sons and one daughter - Haroutyoun (Harry), Avedis and Sosi.



She was educated at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel School in Aleppo, Syria. She also received training as a seamstress.

In 1965 Beatrice and her family immigrated to Australia and settled in Sydney.

In 1967 Beatrice put her faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She raised her three children with constant prayer, and with God's help she taught them to remain loyal in their Christian faith and to their church. At the same time, she taught them the importance of their Armenian heritage. She enjoyed and cherished the love and care of the three children and eight grand-children.

Beatrice was a member of the Armenian Relief Society (ARS). For many years she supported and participated in the work of the ARS. Since 1969 she had faithfully served as a deaconess in the Armenian Evangelical Church. She often preached God's word at the ladies' worship service. She had also served as the chairwoman of the church's ladies auxiliary and director of the Sunday School ministry. She also actively served in the Armenian Apostolic Church.

Beatrice lived a very happy and fulfilling life with her husband George. Unfortunately, in 1992 her dear husband passed away. She always praised God that her husband had found his savior and trusted in Jesus Christ for his salvation before he departed from this world.

On Sept. 14, 2007, Beatrice was involved in a car accident. Following the car accident, her health deteriorated. She underwent surgery to remove a brain tumor, but it was completely unexpected that her life on earth would be over so soon. Her condition gradually deteriorated over the next fourteen months as the brain tumor recurred and did not respond to further treatment.

Beatrice passed away on Nov. 24, 2008 at Allambie Heights. Her loss in our lives is great. We have lost a faithful servant of God, a model member of the church. "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." (Rev. 7:17)

- Garo Sghomonian



# AMAA Internship Program

## Summer 2009

### Come, Join, Learn and Serve!

Encouraged by last year's overwhelming success and experience, AMAA once again invites the Armenian youth to be part of its ministries.

Young men and women over the age of 18 who are interested and motivated to serve, will have a unique opportunity during June 28 - July 10, 2009.

The nature of this summer's program will involve an introduction to the work of the AMAA, traveling to Armenia and allowing young adults an opportunity to participate in AMAA Activities. The trip will include site-seeing in Armenia.

This year's activities will include participation in either a renovation work in Ichevan, Armenia, or in a Vacation Bible School/Day Camp in the same area.

Timely response will be appreciated, so arrangements are made for appropriate accommodations. The cost to each participant will be their airfare (approximately \$1200-\$1500 depending, when booked). The AMAA will provide housing and meals.

Please act promptly and request an application.

For further information, you may contact the AMAA or any of the individuals below:

Mr. Dave Shahbazian, AMAA Intern Coordinator  
shabatts@verizon.net (845-339-3676)

Mr. Vahram Aynilian, AMAA Board Rep. & Advisor  
vay@aynilian.com (201-666-7710)

Mr. Dikran Youmshakian, AMAA Field Director  
dyamaa@amaa.org (201-265-2607)



Pictures from  
Summer 2008  
Internship Program  
in Vanatzor, Armenia



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